

# Louisiana Guide to Supports & Services for Individuals with Disabilities, Elders and Their Families Effected by Disasters

State Agencies		
<b>Department of Health &amp; Hospitals (DHH)</b>	Protects and promotes health and ensures access to medical, preventive, and rehabilitative services. Contact for services and assistance related to addictive disorders, aging, mental health, developmental disabilities, public health, and Medicaid.	DHH Emergency Operations Behavioral Health Desk: (225) 763-5734 (225) 342-9500 <a href="http://www.dhh.louisiana.gov">www.dhh.louisiana.gov</a>
	<b>Office of Addictive Disorders</b> -Promotes and supports individuals, families and communities in the prevention and treatment of addictive disorders.	(225) 342-6717 <a href="http://www.dhh.louisiana.gov/offices/?ID=23">www.dhh.louisiana.gov/offices/?ID=23</a>
	<b>Office of Aging and Adult Services</b> -Serves aging adults and people with adult-onset disabilities.	(866) 758-5035 <a href="http://www.dhh.louisiana.gov/offices/?ID=105">www.dhh.louisiana.gov/offices/?ID=105</a>
	<b>Office of Mental Health</b> -Provides treatment, rehabilitation and follow-up care for individuals with mental and emotional disorders.	(225) 342-2540 <a href="http://www.dhh.louisiana.gov/offices/?ID=62">www.dhh.louisiana.gov/offices/?ID=62</a>
	<b>Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities</b> – Provides supports and services to people with developmental disabilities. Also provides early intervention services to families, infants and toddlers 0-36 months who have developmental delays or who have a medical condition likely to result in a developmental disability (Early Steps).	(225) 342-0095 (866) 783-5553 <a href="http://www.dhh.louisiana.gov/offices/?ID=77">www.dhh.louisiana.gov/offices/?ID=77</a> <b>Early Steps:</b> (866) Early Steps (866) 327-5978 <a href="http://www.dhh.louisiana.gov/offices/?ID=334">www.dhh.louisiana.gov/offices/?ID=334</a>
<b>Protective Services</b>	Offers protective services to investigate possible abuse, neglect and exploitation and to arrange services in those instances where it is found. Agencies to contact are listed below based on the age of person involved:	
	<b>Children up to age 18: The Department of Social Services, Office of Community Services</b>	(225) 295-4571 <a href="http://www.dss.state.la.us">www.dss.state.la.us</a> (click on the link "Report Child Abuse/Neglect")
	<b>Adults who have disabilities age 18 through 59 and emancipated minors: The Department of Health and Hospitals, Adult Protective Services</b>	(800) 898-4910 <a href="http://www.dhh.louisiana.gov/office/?ID=95">www.dhh.louisiana.gov/office/?ID=95</a>
	<b>Elders, age 60 and older: The Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs, Elderly Protective Services</b>	(800) 259-4990 <a href="http://goea.louisiana.gov/eps.htm">http://goea.louisiana.gov/eps.htm</a> (Reports can also be made via e-mail: <a href="mailto:eps@goea.state.la.gov">eps@goea.state.la.gov</a> )
<b>Department of Social Services (DSS)</b>	Develops and provides social services and employment rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities. Contact for services related to rehabilitation, family support, and community services.	(225) 342-0286 <a href="http://www.dss.louisiana.gov">www.dss.louisiana.gov</a>
	<b>Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS)</b> - Assists persons with disabilities to obtain/maintain employment and/or achieve independence by providing rehabilitation services and working cooperatively with business and other community resources.	(800) 737-2958 <a href="http://www.dss.louisiana.gov">www.dss.louisiana.gov</a>
<b>Office of Juvenile Justice</b>	Provides services to youth who are at-risk or delinquent, including those with disabilities. Contact for related services.	(225) 287-7900 <a href="http://www.ojj.la.gov">www.ojj.la.gov</a>
<b>Governor's Office of Disability Affairs</b>	Facilitates access to the opportunities needed for people with disabilities to live as fully engaged participants in society. Provides information and referrals to independent living centers.	(877) 668-2722 VRS: (888) 890-6996 Email: <a href="mailto:disability.affairs@la.gov">disability.affairs@la.gov</a>
<b>Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs</b>	Administers a broad range of home and community based services through a network of area agencies on Aging (e.g., LouisianaAnswers.com, Louisiana Senior, Long Term Care Ombudsmen and Elderly Protective Services).	(877) 340-9100 <a href="http://goea.louisiana.gov">http://goea.louisiana.gov</a> <a href="http://www.LouisianaAnswers.com">www.LouisianaAnswers.com</a> <a href="http://www.LouisianaSenioRx.org">www.LouisianaSenioRx.org</a>
Education Services		
<b>Department of Education</b>	Maintains information for displaced students/teachers. Also provides verification of eligibility for Special Education Services for transferring or homeless children through SER (Special Education Reporting) System. Contact for related information.	(877) 453-2721 <a href="http://www.doe.state.la.us">www.doe.state.la.us</a> SER (Special Education Reporting System) (225) 342-6215 <a href="http://www.doe.state.la.us/ide/pair/1213.html">www.doe.state.la.us/ide/pair/1213.html</a>
<b>Louisiana School for the Deaf</b>	Contact for services for children who have a hearing loss.	(888) 769-8111 (in-state toll free) <a href="http://www.lalsd.org">www.lalsd.org</a>
<b>Louisiana School for the Visually Impaired</b>	Contact for information related to education and support services for children who are blind or visually impaired.	(225) 342-8694 <a href="http://www.lsvi.org">www.lsvi.org</a>
Communication		
<b>Telecommunications Relay Services</b>	Contact for telephone communication assistance for individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or with speech impairments.	(800) 947-5277 (V) (800) 846-5277 (TTY); 711 (TTY) (888) 550-5277 (ASCII) (888) 272-5530 (Speech to Speech) (800) 737-1813 (Spanish)

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## Advocacy & Support Groups

<b>AARP</b>	Provides services to people age 50 and over, offering a wide range of unique benefits and services. Provides a national AARP Disaster Kit and locally promotes family and individual responsibility for initial self help.	(866) 448-3620 <a href="http://www.aarp.org">www.aarp.org</a> (877) 677-0677 Helpline toll free
<b>Advocacy Center</b>	Provides the following to people with disabilities and the elderly: legally based advocacy, including information and referral, legal advice and representation, outreach, training, and systems advocacy.	(800) 960-7705 <a href="http://www.advocacyla.org">www.advocacyla.org</a>
<b>American Red Cross Disaster Services</b>	Contact for assistance with immediate emergency disaster-caused needs including shelters. Also provides a register for individuals affected by disasters to post themselves as "safe and well" and for family members to search for those affected by disaster.	<a href="http://www.redcross.org">www.redcross.org</a> (access local chapter with zip code) (866) GET INFO (866) 438-4636 <a href="https://disastersafe.redcross.org/">https://disastersafe.redcross.org/</a> (for info on displaced persons)
<b>Families Helping Families</b>	Provides information and referral on disability and special health care needs.	(800) 922-DIAL (3425) <a href="mailto:info@lafhf.org">info@lafhf.org</a>
<b>LATAN (Louisiana Assistive Technology Access Network)</b>	Contact for assistive devices and durable medical equipment for disaster survivors, and for information regarding other programs and services for people with disabilities and age-related limitations who can benefit from assistive devices and daily living aids.	(800) 270-6185 <a href="http://www.latan.org">www.latan.org</a>
<b>Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council</b>	Contact this advocacy organization for information and referral to available resources, supports and services for people with disabilities.	(800)-450-8108 <a href="http://www.laddc.org">www.laddc.org</a>
<b>Louisiana State Autism Society of America</b>	A Coalition of chapters offering information and referrals, advocacy and training for parents, teachers and service providers.	(800) 955-3760 <a href="http://www.lastateautism.org">www.lastateautism.org</a>
<b>Louisiana Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health (LAFFCMH)</b>	Provides education, support and information to families of children and adolescents with serious emotional, behavioral, or mental disorders statewide. Also, serves as collaborative partner in the Family Recovery Project for community mobilization to ensure that families and children with mental health needs get the support needed.	(800) 224-4010 <a href="http://www.ffcmh.org">www.ffcmh.org</a>
<b>Mental Health America of Louisiana</b>	Provides community awareness campaigns, consumer protection services, and advocacy for mental health reform. Contact for consumer protection, advocacy, and crisis links.	<a href="http://www.mhal.org/">http://www.mhal.org/</a>
<b>National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities/LA</b>	Contact for information related to disabilities in infants, toddlers, children, and youth; IDEA, which is the law authorizing special education; No Child Left Behind; and research-based information on effective educational practices.	<a href="http://www.nichcy.org/stateshe/la.htm">www.nichcy.org/stateshe/la.htm</a>
<b>Project PROMPT</b>	Provides rights, education and advocacy services for children and youth with disabilities and special health care needs. Provides personal consultations in securing the most appropriate educational program.	(800) 766-7736 <a href="http://www.projectprompt.com">www.projectprompt.com</a>
<b>The Arc of Louisiana</b>	Contact for advocating for the rights and full participation of children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.	(866) 966-6260 <a href="http://www.thearca.org/">www.thearca.org/</a>
<b>United Way 211</b>	Contact for a comprehensive guide to community resources.	(225) 924-1431 ext.11 <a href="http://www.brcic211.org/">www.brcic211.org/</a>
<b>VOAD Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster</b>	A collaborative and diverse committee comprised of agencies that specialize in liaison services: federal assistance programs, deadlines, coordination with other volunteer organizations and donation management. Additional services include helping populations with special needs, making appropriate referrals and assisting in reduction of benefit duplication.	(225) 359-9940, ext. 222 <a href="http://www.brfoodbank.org">www.brfoodbank.org</a>

## Disability Specific Organizations

<b>ALS Association</b>	Provides services for persons with ALS (Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis) through hospital-affiliated clinics, support groups for individuals and their families, and assistance with the purchase/loan of prescribed medical equipment.	(800) 891-3746 <a href="http://www.alsalouisiana.org">www.alsalouisiana.org</a>
<b>Alzheimer's Association</b>	Contact for referrals to community programs and services for people exhibiting problems with memory, decision making, self-care, communication and disorientation. Available to address caregiver stress.	(800) 272-3900 24/7 HELPLINE Available in multiple languages <a href="http://www.alz.org">www.alz.org</a>
<b>Down's Syndrome Association of Greater New Orleans</b>	Provides information and support to all parents with children with Down Syndrome and other cognitive disabilities.	<a href="http://www.dsagno.org">www.dsagno.org</a>
<b>Epilepsy Foundation Louisiana</b>	Information related to epilepsy research, education, advocacy, & services.	(800) 960-0587 <a href="http://www.epilepsylouisiana.org">www.epilepsylouisiana.org</a>
<b>Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Society</b>	Promotes research, educates, advocates for people with multiple sclerosis, and organizes a wide range of programs including support for the newly diagnosed and those living with MS over time.	(800) 346-7323 <a href="http://www.nationalmssociety.org">www.nationalmssociety.org</a> (access chapter with zip code)
<b>Muscular Dystrophy Association</b>	Provides services for children and adults with neuromuscular diseases through hospital-affiliated clinics; assists with the purchase/loan of prescribed medical equipment; offers support groups for individuals and their families and summer camps for children with muscular dystrophy.	<a href="http://www.mda.org/">www.mda.org/</a> (access chapter with zip code)
<b>National Spinal Cord Injury Association</b>	Provides resources, services, and peer support to people with spinal cord injury and disease (SCI/D).	(800) 962-9629 <a href="http://www.spinalcord.org/">www.spinalcord.org/</a> (access Local Resources by State)
<b>Spina Bifida</b>	Serves adults and children who live with the challenges of spina bifida through education, advocacy, research, and services.	(504) 737.5181 <a href="http://www.sbagno.org/">www.sbagno.org/</a>
<b>UCP/United Cerebral Palsy</b>	Identifies and provides treatment to children with cerebral palsy, developmental delays, and learning disabilities; works to enhance the quality of life for the families of these children.	Baton Rouge: (225) 923-3420 <a href="http://www.mcmainscdc.org">www.mcmainscdc.org</a> New Orleans: (504) 461-4266 <a href="http://www.ucpgno.org">www.ucpgno.org</a>